

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 9 remain in this application. Claims 1 - 3, 5, and 6 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specific clarifications and corrections were requested in the Office Action. Also, applicant is requested to review all of the claims for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

In view of the comments and suggestions of the examiner, the claims have been amended extensively to improve the grammar and syntax of the claims as well as to clarify the meaning of the limitations in the claims. No new matter has been added to the claims.

Further, with respect to the recitation "knife frame can be set . . . in a lateral direction," this recitation now reads --knife frame is set . . . in a lateral direction-- to clarify and positively claim that "the position of the reversible knife relative to the knife frame is set as desired in a lateral direction of the reversible knife."

With respect to the recitation "which runs parallel," this recitation now reads --is parallel to-- as suggested by the examiner for clarification.

With respect to the statement that there is no antecedent basis for angle β in claim 3, claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2 rather than claim 1. Claim 2 introduces the angle β . Since claim 3 now depends from claim 2, there is antecedent basis for the angle β in claim 3. Applicant also notes that the clamp has two counter-surfaces that are shown by reference numerals 24 and 25 in FIGS. 3a and 3b. The counter-surfaces of the clamp rest on the knife frame. Further, the counter-surfaces are adjacent to each other and together form the acute angle β as shown in FIGS. 3a and 3b. Furthermore, angles α and β as well as the bisectors (dot-dash lines) of angles α and β are shown in FIGS. 3a and 3b.

For these reasons, applicant submits that the claims as amended are clear and definite and respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 - 9 be withdrawn.

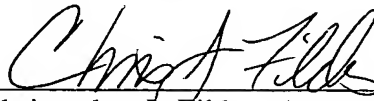
Applicant also submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references, including Carpenter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,442), for the reasons presented in the Amendment And Request For Reconsideration dated May 16, 2007.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Further, this amendment should be entered as it places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. No further search or consideration is required. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauli Haapasalo

Fildes & Outland, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Fildes, Attorney
Registration No. 32,132
20916 Mack Avenue, Suite 2
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
(313) 885-1500